

## Court Information Release



United States District Court  
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division  
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

**Release Date:**  
March 20, 2019

**Contact:** Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer  
United States District Court for  
the Northern District of Illinois  
219 S. Dearborn St., #2514A  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-435-5693

### **Court Welcomes Chicago Legal Prep Sophomores Competing in Mock Trial Competition**

Chicago, Ill. - On March 20, 2018, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted ninety sophomore students from Legal Prep Charter Academy in Chicago's West Garfield Park Neighborhood who were participating in a mock trial competition.

"Don't let anyone tell you 'no.' Don't let them tell you 'you can't go to college' or 'you can't go to law school,'" said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo as he welcomed students to the courthouse.

"I grew up on the Westside of Chicago, under very modest circumstances. If I can become Chief Judge of this Court, so can you," Judge Castillo said as he shared details of his upbringing and encouraged students to pursue careers in law.

After months of study and preparation and with the advice and direction of Chicago attorneys, students were provided a set of case facts. In today's culminating event, the students, in federal courtrooms, competed in mock trials before attorneys who acted as judges and provided feedback to students.

Legal Prep is a Chicago Public School, founded in 2012, that uses a law-themed curriculum to prepare students for colleges and universities.

###

